

REMARKS

Claim 5 has been amended to correct an informality. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-18 remain pending.

In the Office Action dated August 5, 2005, claim 5 was objected to for an informality. Claim 5 has been amended to correct the informality. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 5 be withdrawn.

As indicated above, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, which includes claims 1-8, for examination with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden and that the criteria for a proper restriction requirement as set forth in MPEP §803 have not been satisfied. MPEP §803 states that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (Emphasis added.)

Independent claim 1 recites a carrier constructed to carry a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device, that includes, "a first member provided with an open hollow structure that is open to at least one side of said first member, said first member constructed to support a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device; and a second member connected to said first member, such that a closed hollow internal structure is formed between said first and second members."

Independent claim 9 recites a method for making a carrier for carrying a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device, that includes "providing at least two members, one of the at least two members being constructed to support a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device; and connecting the at least two members to each other to form a carrier, where the at least two members are formed in such a way that the carrier comprises a substantially closed, hollow internal structure."

Therefore, regardless of which group Applicants elect, the search and examination of claims 1 and 9 generally requires the search and examination for a carrier constructed to carry a lithographic substrate or a lithographic patterning device, wherein the carrier includes a first member and a second member that are connected such that a substantially closed hollow internal structure is formed.

As the search and examination of independent claim 1 encompasses the search and examination of independent claim 9, and vice versa, it is respectfully submitted that the

search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden and that the criteria for a proper restriction requirement between Groups I and II has not been established. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction be withdrawn.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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